

Message from the President

This is the 6th mini Newsletter since the lockdown and since that time everybody has had to gradually adjust to the “new normal”. Your Society is no exception, and although we have not been able to hold our regular meetings, we have tried to maintain your photographic interests through a range of online activities. In particular we have established a bi-monthly programme of online talks and other events which currently runs up to December. More details are on the website.

Your committee is now in the very early stages of thinking about an outline plan for how we might restart meetings in the WI hall as and when this might be possible. In this our overriding aim is the safety of members and to be always guided by their wishes.

For the time being we will continue to develop our on line programme, but Government advice has recently changed such that in theory, we could meet again in the hall subject to appropriate precautions. In fact we have recently heard from the WI hall and they are planning to open again in July with a wide range of safety measures including:

- Limiting numbers of people (36 max) with social distancing
- No gathering in lobby
- No use of kitchen or lift
- Limits to number of people using toilet facilities at any one time
- Sanitising of room and equipment
- Maintaining list of all users in case any virus symptoms develop

This does not necessarily mean that we will be starting normal meetings again in September, but to help us develop our plan for when this might be feasible we really need some feedback from members, each of whom will have their own views about what is best for them. To this end, within the next week or so we will be sending every member a link to an on line survey which we hope everyone will complete. All the results will be completely confidential and anonymous, but the more members who respond the better able we will be better able to reflect your views in planning for the future.

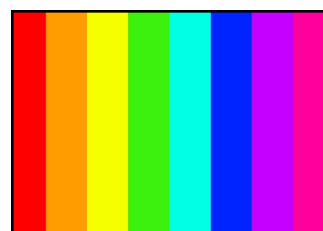


Society activities

As well as our online programme we have set up or are planning a number of other activities including the Facebook challenge:

We have been very pleased with the response to the A - Z challenge which has seen a wide range of excellent and often creative interpretations of the theme. This will come to an end in the next couple of weeks and we hope to find a way of keeping them available to view on a permanent basis via an album on the website. Once complete, Bob Bracher will also be asking you to nominate your top 10 personal favourite images from the challenge so an overall list of the most appealing images can be compiled. This will be just for fun but will be an interesting exercise. Why don't you start working out your favourites now by scrolling through the set of images so far uploaded.

As members have done a great job with the A - Z challenge we thought that next we would try a new Rainbow challenge, which might prove a little trickier! We will be asking you to upload an image with a theme based on the colours of the rainbow: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet. You can be as creative as you like as long as each image has something connected to that colour. We'll look forward to seeing the results.



Photography interest - members contributions

In this newsletter we are using links to relevant web pages. These are highlighted in blue and underlined. To access the web page you will need to be connected to the internet. Depending on which device you are using, simply click on the link or if that does not work try holding down the alt key with your cursor over the link and it should change to a hand sign, then click. The webpage should open in a new tab on your browser

The link below takes you to a short 8 minute AV showing a small selection of the wonderful wildlife that can be found in Costa Rica. It has incredibly diverse ecosystems which have been enhanced by the constructive approach to conservation adopted by the Costa Rica authorities. It starts with a short clip from Sir David Attenborough describing the threats to wildlife from humans and ends with a few ways that Costa Rica is trying to win the conservation battle.

It can be difficult to get decent images in the country due the often dense vegetation and tricky light conditions, so some of the images are not high quality. But hopefully this will give you a flavour of what can be seen. If you have already been to the country it may bring back some good memories. If you haven't then add it to your bucket list as and when this might be possible.



[Costa Rica - Winning the Conservation battle](#)

Photo walk in August?

The current Government guidelines allow up to six people not from the same household to meet outside, subject to maintaining social distancing. We would like to know if members would be interested in a Photowalk in August. Such an event would have to be carefully arranged to minimise risk but might be another opportunity to gradually return to a new normal. Subject to sufficient interest Bob Bracher has offered to organise this so if you are interested please get in touch with him directly at:

rpbracher@yahoo.co.uk



On line Workshops

As part of our regular online programme we recently held a successful workshop on video and video editing led by Jim Hiscox.

We have another online workshop scheduled for 21st July. We want to make this an informal and fun evening so thought we would try a workshop on "How do I". To make this work we would want members to submit in advance questions on any photographic subject. This could be a technical issue on processing, printing, or other forms of output such as social media. Or it might be something on composition, or making your images more creative. Indeed anything that you may have said to yourself in the past "How do I do this?"

We would have available experts from the Society who could hopefully provide a solution, if necessary by sharing their screen to show how the problem is addressed.

This is quite ambitious but will only work if we have enough questions - don't be afraid to ask anything and we'll see if we can help.

Please send your questions to:

breaches@btinternet.com